



Office of
SCOTT A. BRANNON, COMMISSIONER
District One
Walton County Board of County Commissioners

July 25, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

The best way to build a successful future is to make sure that we have a strong infrastructure in place that allows individuals, businesses and community organizations to work together to address the challenges of growth while preserving our natural environment.

As a businessman and an elected official, I believe it is critically important to promote the development of strong telecommunication networks that make it possible for communities to retain and attract businesses, promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life enjoyed by residents. High-speed broadband networks promote economic development, help communities deliver services more efficiently, and provide citizens with new and innovative ways to address public concerns about health care, education, and the environment.

As you know, the Federal Communications Commission is reviewing a proposal that would enable AT&T to merge with T-Mobile USA. If approved, the merger would bring the companies together and make it possible for them to invest \$8 billion on improvements, updates and additions to the existing telecommunications infrastructure. As a result of the merger, our telecommunications infrastructure will be stronger, more efficient, and better prepared to meet the challenges of increasing consumer demand for wireless data.

It is estimated that the AT&T/T-Mobile merger will create between 55,000 and 96,000 jobs in the telecommunications sector and expand access to AT&T's next generation broadband network to an additional 55 million Americans. This is an important step forward for the economy and a great opportunity to leverage private sector capital to build a telecommunications infrastructure that is equal to the political, social and environmental challenges facing America in the 21st Century.

I urge you to work with members of the commission to approve the merger. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


Scott Brannon

cc: Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio
The Honorable Steve Southerland